

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 USIE-00

NSCE-00 SAJ-01 MBFR-04 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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O R 271902Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3549

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USINT ALGIERS

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 25405

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, FR

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SUBJECT: POMPIDOU'S PRESS CONFERENCE: HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY. IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE JANUARY 1973 AND HIS NINTH SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE, PRESIDENT POMPIDOU SPOKE FOR AN HOUR AND FORTY MINUTES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ECONOMICS AND DOMESTIC POLITICS, HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH PRESENTED BELOW. POMPIDOU SAID FRANCE WILL ACCORD PRESIDENT NIXON WELCOME DUE US PRESIDENT WHENEVER HE CHOOSES TO VISIT FRANCE. QUESTION OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO EUROPE OUTSIDE OF BILATERAL FRAMEWORK, HOWEVER, PRESENTS QUESTIONS ON WHICH EC NINE MUST DEVELOP COMMON POSITION. ALTHOUGH STILL OVERWEIGHT, PRESIDENT LOOKED FIT AND IN BETTER SHAPE THAN HE HAS IN ANY PUBLIC APPEARANCE FOR NEARLY A YEAR. HE WAS IN COMPLETE COMMAND OF PRESS CONFERENCE, DISPLAYED HIS USUAL MASTERY OF COMPLEX ISSUES AND RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS WITH SELF-ASSURANCE, VIGOR AND FLASHES OF WIT. IN SHORT, A FORCEFUL, IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM: POMPIDOU DEFENDED GOF ESPOUSAL OF NEW POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM, PARTICULARLY ON GOLD, WHICH SEEMED TO DEPART FROM PAST ORTHODOXY. BUT, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS LONGEST PORTION OF PRESS CONFERENCE, HIS REMARKS CONTAINED LITTLE NEW EXCEPT FOR SUGGESTION THAT INDEPENDENCE OF IMF AS BANK OF ISSUANCE OF ARTIFICIAL RESERVE ASSET OF SYSTEM MIGHT BE ENHANCED BY CHANGE OF ITS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION. (DETAILS ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REMARKS BEING SENT SEPTTEL.)

2. CHILE: IN RESPONSE TO LOADED QUESTION FROM FRENCH COMMUNIST REPORTER ABOUT WHY FRANCE HAD NOT SAVED ITS HONOR BY REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE THE CHILEAN JUNTA AND CONDEMNING ITS OPPRESSION, POMPIDOU COUNTERATTACKED BY SAYING HE HAD EXPECTED SOMEONE TO COMPARE POSITION ON CHILE TO GOF REACTION TO CZECHOSLOVAKIAN UPRISING. WHILE OUTSIDE INTERVENTION HAD TURNED CZECH INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS INTO INTERNATIONAL EVENT (ABOUT WHICH GOF HAD A RIGHT TO COMMENT), CHILEAN PROBLEM HAD REMAINED INTERNAL MATTER. WHILE REGRETTING THE USE OF FORCE AND LOSS OF LIVES, FRANCE DID NOT WISH TO IMPOSE ITS VALUES ON OTHER COUNTRIES. POMPIDOU SAID GOF DID NOT RECOGNIZE GOVERNMENTS, BUT STATES, AND HENCE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION DID NOT ARISE. POMPIDOU ADDED THAT IN ANY CASE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT HAD SEEMED HEADED

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FOR DEFEAT; SIGNS WERE: INFLATION, OPPOSITION BY THE WORKERS AND INTRODUCTION OF MILITARY INTO CABINET. HE DEPLORED VIOLENCE IN CHILE BUT REITERATED GOF WOULD NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS: POMPIDOU NOTED THAT THE RECONCILIATION AND CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE AND

OF EUROPEAN STABILITY. REJECTING THE ASSERTION THAT HE IS OBSESSED BY GERMANY, HE SAID THAT HIS SUMMIT MEETING LAST SUMMER WITH BRANDT WAS AMONG THE MOST USEFUL HE HAS HAD. HE REMARKED THAT CLOSE FRENCH-GERMAN RELATIONS MUST REMAIN A FUNDAMENTAL POLICY OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THERE IS NO CRISIS BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY, AND THERE MUST NOT BE SUCH A CRISIS.

5. EUROPEAN UNION: ON EUROPEAN UNION, POMPIDOU NOTED THAT THERE CAN BE NO REAL EUROPEAN UNION BEFORE THERE IS A EUROPEAN POLICY (UNE POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE). CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME BELIEVE, FRANCE IS NOT OPPOSED TO DEVELOPING THIS (EUROPEAN POLICY). "WHILE I AM NOT READY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, I AM WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS WITH OUR EC PARTNERS." HE CLOSED BY NOTING THAT EUROPE CANNOT HAVE A REAL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF A REAL EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE.

6. EUROPEAN SECURITY: POMPIDOU SAID THAT WHEN THERE IS A EUROPEAN POLICY THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE A PROBLEM REGARDING EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE. BUT FOR NOW, THE EFFORTS OF EACH COUNTRY, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PART OF THE ALLIANCE, CONVERGE TO AID EUROPE'S SECURITY. HE ADDED THAT THIS SECURITY IS TIED TO THE ALLIANCE WITH THE US AND THUS TO THE PRESENCE OF US TROOPS IN EUROPE. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE PROBLEM OF AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE IS NOT A PROBLEM FOR TODAY.

7. FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS: IN REPLY TO QUESTION BY IZVESTIA CORRESPONDENT ON FRENCH VIEW OF DETENTE, POMPIDOU SAID FRANCE BELIEVED DETENTE, ENTENTE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD CONTINUE. WHILE NOTING THAT CHANGES COULD ALWAYS OCCUR IN FOREIGN RELATIONS, HE STATED BELIEF THAT THERE CONTINUED TO BE COMMON INTEREST IN CLOSE FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS, OBSERVING THAT

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THE FRENCH WERE PLEASED AT THE WAY THEY HAD PROGRESSED, MARKED BY MEETINGS BETWEEN TOP LEADERS.

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PARIS 25405

8. ALLEGED RACIST ATTITUDES TOWARDS ALGERIANS: PRESIDENT
POMPIDOU ASSERTED IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT NEITHER FRENCH PEOPLE
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NOR GOF COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS RACIST. IMMIGRATION PROBLEM,
ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT, STEMS FROM URBAN CONCENTRATION AND
DIFFERENCE HABITS,
CUSTOMS. REJECTING SEGREGATION AS SOLUTION, PRESIDENT POMPIDOU
SAID GOF WILL CONCENTRATE ON IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND WIDER
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION, TASKS WHICH WILL REQUIRE COOPERATION
OF ALL FRENCHMEN, PARTICULARLY EMPLOYERS.

9. VISIT TO CHINA: AT END OF INTERNATIONAL SECTION, POMPIDOU STIMULATED A QUESTION ABOUT HIS TRIP TO CHINA. POMPIDOU SAID HE FOUND LEADERS WHO KNOW WHAT THEY WISH AND SPOKE FREELY, GOF AND PRC TALKED ABOUT WHOLE RANGE OF WORLD PROBLEMS BECAUSE NEITHER IS A COUNTRY WHICH IS ONLY REGIONAL. THEY AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENCE, SELF-DEFENSE, AND REFUSAL OF HEGEMONY. THEIR VIEWS ON THE USSR VARIED AS ONE WOULD EXPECT; FRANCE BELIEVES MORE IN DETENTE THAN DOES THE PRC. IN BILATERAL RELATIONS FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF TRADE WAS IMPORTANT TOPIC. VISIT WAS ALSO OF SYMBOLIC VALUE SINCE IT WAS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT BY A WESTERN HEAD OF STATE.

10. FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING: WHEN ASKED ABOUT WORLD PROTESTS CONCERNING NUCLEAR TESTING, POMPIDOU DIVIDED PROTESTS INTO THOSE MADE BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS (AND BASICALLY HYPOCRITICAL) AND THOSE BASED ON WELL INTENTIONED, PACIFIST INTENTIONS. HE SAID THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS HAD EVEN INFORMED GOF THEY WERE MAKING THE PROTEST ONLY FOR PUBLIC RECORD. FRANCE COULD NOT ON THESE GROUNDS INHIBIT ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY -- WHICH WAS GREATER THAN WAS BELIEVED. FRANCE HAS DEVELOPED THE MIRAGE IVS, TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SSBNS WHICH GAVE HER A "FLEXIBLE RESPONSE." POMPIDOU TRACED THE FRENCH DECISION TO GO NUCLEAR BACK TO FOURTH REPUBLIC AND DEFENDED IT ALSO ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS CHEAPER THAN A CONVENTIONAL EQUIVALENT. POMPIDOU FINALLY COMMENTED THAT FRANCE'S TESTS WERE CONDUCTED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED WITH GREAT PRECAUTIONS SO THAT NO ONE NEED FEAR SIDE EFFECTS OF FRENCH TESTING. ON DISARMAMENT, POMPIDOU SAID THAT IT MUST BE SIMULTANEOUS TO BE EFFECTIVE AND IN ABSENCE OF THIS, FRANCE WAS REQUIRED FOR OWN DEFENSE TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

11. ECONOMIC: THE PRESIDENT CALLED INFLATION MOST SERIOUS OF
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DOMESTIC PROBLEMS HE HAS TO FACE TODAY, AND ADMITTED HE HAD TWICE BEEN WRONG IN THINKING DANGER HAD SUBSIDED. HE CITED 51 PERCENT RISE IN PRIMARY PRODUCT PRICES IN LAST YEAR, AND MONETARY SITUATION (WITHOUT ELABORATION) AS PRINCIPAL EXTERNAL CAUSES, AND CALLED EASY MONEY AND LIBERAL WAGE AND PRICE INCREASES AS PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC FACTORS. HE NOTED GOVERNMENT HAD REACHED THE LIMITS OF WHAT COULD BE DONE TO CONTAIN INFLATION THROUGH MONETARY POLICY. WHILE CRITICIZING RESULTS ELSEWHERE AND NOTING IT UNDESIRABLE, HE ALLOWED THAT UNLESS INFLATIONARY TREND CHANGED -- FOR WHICH HE HAD LITTLE HOPE -- HE MAY IN UNSPECIFIED FUTURE TIME HAVE TO ASK FOR A REVENUES POLICY.

12. DOMESTIC POLITICS: PRESIDENT RESPONDED TO QUESTION ON GOF POLICY TOWARDS LIBERALIZATION OF ABORTION LAW, WORKER-

MANAGEMENT CONFLICT, PARTICULARLY THE LIP AFFAIR, AND HIS REASONS FOR PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REDUCE THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE FROM SEVEN TO FIVE YEARS. ON LATTER QUESTION PRESIDENT GAVE CLEAR INDICATION THAT HE WOULD PRESS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IN SPITE OF OPPOSITION FROM SOME ORTHODOX GAULLISTS. HE ARGUED THAT HIS GAULLIST CREDENTIALS WERE UNASSAILABLE SINCE HE HAD BEEN DE GAULLE'S CLOSEST COLLABORATOR FOR TWENTY YEARS, TEN OF WHICH WERE PRIOR TO DE GAULLE'S COMING TO POWER IN 1958. HE SAID THAT GAULLISTS, AS OTHERS, MUST REALIZE THAT CLOCK DID NOT STOP IN 1969 AND THAT NEW SITUATIONS MUST BE FACED WITH NEW SOLUTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO VEILED QUESTION ON WHETHER HE COULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE, PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO OFFER HIS SERVICES TO FRANCE AS LONG AS HE WAS WANTED AND ABLE. HE GAVE CLEAR INDICATION THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF QUITTING THE SCENE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS25405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS IRWIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973096/aaaaaefq.tel
Line Count: 294
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POMPIDOU'S PRESS CONFERENCE: HIGHLIGHTS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005